



## CITY OF LODI

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Proposed Reciprocal Agreement With Turlock City Attorney  
For Legal Services

MEETING DATE: February 17, 1993

PREPARED BY: City Attorney

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Council consideration and possible approval of  
reciprocal agreement for City Attorney services.

BACKGROUND: Historically, when the City Attorney has been out of  
town or otherwise unavailable on City Council meeting  
dates, it has been necessary to retain an outside law  
firm to provide legal services. While the local firm  
utilized has always done an excellent job, the City's current financial  
situation requires innovative measures to contain costs.

In recent conversation with Angil P. Jones, City Attorney for Turlock, it  
became apparent that City is in a similar situation. It occurred to us that we  
might be able to help each other under a reciprocal agreement.

The proposal is simply that each City Attorney provide coverage to the other's  
Council meetings on those occasions when the regular City Attorney is  
unavailable, at no charge. When Ms. Jones is unavailable to attend Turlock  
Council meetings, I would cover for her, assuming my schedule would otherwise  
allow, and she would do likewise in my absence. These situations would  
probably be infrequent.

Of course, this would require approval by both City Councils as well as a  
mutual indemnity agreement. The agreement would create no obligation to  
provide reciprocal coverage, but would authorize it if our schedules permit.  
This would give the respective cities the option to do so if feasible.

I have high regard for Ms. Jones' abilities and reputation as a City Attorney  
and believe she would do an excellent job. Turlock is approximately the same  
size as Lodi and deals with many of the same issues, so her experience is on  
point. This situation would also have less potential for conflict than hiring  
an outside firm, since she would have no private clients' interests to look out  
for which might theoretically later come into conflict with the City's  
interests.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

THOMAS A. PETERSON  
City Manager



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Assuming the Council consents to this proposal, a letter of understanding can be drafted. Council direction is requested.

FUNDING: None

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob McNatt", is written over a horizontal line.

Bob McNatt  
City Attorney

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